Conference on Disarmament

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on behalf of member States of G-21

Working paper

United Nations General Assembly resolution 68/32 entitled "Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament"

1. At its 67th session, the United Nations General Assembly decided through its resolution 67/39 to convene a High Level Meeting (HLM) on nuclear disarmament during the High Level segment of the 68th session of the General Assembly in 2013. The High Level Meeting was accordingly held on 26 September 2013 providing an opportunity for Heads of State and Government, Foreign Ministers, and other high-level officials to outline their policies for nuclear disarmament. The meeting underlined the strong support of the international community for taking urgent and effective measures to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

2. Subsequent to this High Level Meeting, the General Assembly adopted resolution 68/32 on 5 December 2013 titled "Follow-up to the 2013 High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament". The resolution called for the urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament for the early conclusion of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use and to provide for their destruction.

3. The Resolution also requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States with regard to achieving the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, in particular on the elements of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons, and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, and also to transmit the report to the Conference on Disarmament.

4. It also decided to convene a United Nations high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament no later than 2018 to review progress made in this regard, and declared 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

5. The Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban-ki Moon, in his address to the opening plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament on 21 January 2014, noted that "the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament demonstrated

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that this issue remains a major international priority". The Secretary-General warned against the mentality of the Cold War. He said "Do not hide behind utopian logic which says that until we have the perfect security environment, nuclear disarmament cannot proceed. This is old think. This is the mentality of the Cold War".

6. The continuing existence of nuclear weapons poses a grave threat to humanity and all life on Earth, and the only defence against the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of a nuclear detonation is the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the certainty that they will never be produced again.

7. Nuclear disarmament is the highest priority of the Conference on Disarmament. The Group reaffirms that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against their use or threat of use. The fulfilment of nuclear disarmament obligations and commitments would mutually reinforce non-proliferation. Nuclear disarmament has to be pursued in a comprehensive and non-discriminatory manner.

8. The G-21 is mindful of the solemn obligations of States parties, undertaken in article VI of the Treaty on Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, particularly to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament and calls for urgent compliance with the legal obligation of the fulfilment of the commitments undertaken in this field.

9. We acknowledge the significant contribution made by a number of countries towards realizing the objective of nuclear disarmament by the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, as well as by voluntary renunciation of nuclear weapon programmes or withdrawal of all nuclear weapons from their territories, and strongly supporting the speedy establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East,

10. We are deeply concerned at the persistent reluctance by nuclear weapons states to approach their treaty obligation as an urgent commitment to the total elimination of their nuclear weapons.

11. In this connection we recall the unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice in its 1996 advisory opinion that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to conclusion the negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

12. It is the firm belief of the Group that the time has come to put words into action. Accordingly, the Group of 21 takes this opportunity to call for the implementation of United Nations General Assembly resolution 68/32. In this connection, the Group of 21 calls for the urgent commencement of negotiations on nuclear disarmament in the Conference on Disarmament, in particular on a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use and to provide fro their destruction.

13. The Group of 21 requests to the Presidency of the Conference on Disarmament to take into account during future consultations, how to take forward the mandate given to the Conference by the United Nations General Assembly on this important issue, and call upon members of the Conference to support this important initiative.